communities of "Gawdas", "Kunbis" and "Velip" were processed. Due to disagreement of the concerned agencies in respect of "Dhangar" community, this could not be taken up.

Autonomous councils for tribals

566. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals seeking autonomous councils for tribals;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a demand for stopping transfer of land to the non tribals in Scheduled Areas; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R.KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to information received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the proposal to include hill areas of Darjeeling District of West Bengal under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution is under examination.

(c) and(d) According to Schedule VII of the Constitution, the subject related to 'land' comes under the State List. Most of the States having Scheduled Areas have enacted laws regulating transfer from tribals to non-tribals. However, no specific demand for stopping transfer of land to the non-tribals in Scheduled Areas has been received in the Ministry.

Traditional rights in forests for tribals

567. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribals have not been given the traditional rights in forests including land and access to the minor forests products;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when a bill to give tribals these benefits is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH):(a) and (c) The tenurial and access rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes in